

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00454 180720Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03
SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 /074 W
-----180724 090529 /13

R 171515Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2108

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0454

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SPON, CZ
SUBJ: TREATMENT OF JOURNALISTS

REF: PRAGUE 400 (NOTAL)

1. IN REFTEL WE REPORTED, AMONG OTHER INCIDENTS, THAT A
"STERN" CORRESPONDENT, PRESUMABLY WALTER KRATZER, WAS
SEARCHED AT THE BORDER WHEN LEAVING CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN
JANUARY.

2. FEBRUARY 12 RUDE PRAVO CARRIED ILLEGIBLE PHOTOSTAT
OF PARTS OF WHAT IT ALLEGES TO BE INTERNAL "STERN"
CORRESPONDENCE WHICH, IT SAYS, WAS SENT TO "STERN" REPORTER
WALTER KRATZER IN CONNECTION WITH A JOURNALISTIC VISIT TO
THIS COUNTRY WHICH HE COMPLETED ON JANUARY 15. KRATZER'S
STORY, CHARACTERIZED BY RUDE PRAVO AS A "HEAP OF LIES"
AND PRESUMABLY DEALING WITH DISSIDENT ACTIVITY HERE,
APPEARED IN LATE JANUARY ISSUE OF STERN. PHOTOSTATED
ITEM ALLEGEDLY IS INSTRUCTIONS IN GERMAN FOR KRATZER
TO CONTACT DISSIDENTS, GIVING NAMES, PRAGUE ADDRESSES
AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF SIX LEADING DISSIDENTS. IT
SUGGESTS AS A PRIME CONTACT IVAN KLIMA, WHO IT SAYS
SIGNED CHARTER 77 (BUT WHO, IN FACT, DID NOT) OR AS
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00454 180720Z

A FALLBACK AN AMERICAN FRIEND OF KLIMA, MARLENE
MANCINI (WHO WAS IN PRAGUE AT THE TIME TO SEE PAVEL
KOHOUT ABOUT ONE OF HIS PLAYS). IT DIRECTS KRATZER
TO GIVE KOHOUT GREETINGS FROM MR. BRAUNSCHWEIGER OF
REICH VERLAG IN LUCERNE, WHICH HAS PUBLISHED HIS
WORKS AND THOSE OF CZECH DISSIDENTS (AND HAS RECENTLY
BEEN MUCH VILIFIED IN MEDIA HERE AS BEING FRG INTEL-

LIGENCE FRONT), AND TO CONTACT BRAUNSCHWEIGER AFTER LEAVING CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

3. WE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IF BONN CAN DETERMINE WHETHER KRATZER LETTER IS AUTHENTIC. LOCAL FRG EMBASSY AND RESIDENT NEWSMAN SAY THEY HAVE NO DETAILS OF INCIDENT. IF KRATZER SAYS IT IS NOT AUTHENTIC, PLEASE INQUIRE WHETHER ANY STATIONERY WAS TAKEN FROM HIM WHILE HERE. WE ARE INTERESTED IN THIS:
A) BECAUSE KLIMA HAS BEEN KEEPING HIS HEAD DOWN DURING CHARTER 77 CAMPAIGN AND THIS DOCUMENT COULD BE A PROVOCATION AIMED AT HIM; B) BECAUSE OF THE REFERENCE TO AMCIT MANCINI; AND C) BECAUSE NYT CORRESPONDENT PAUL HOFMANN HAD SEVERAL SHEETS OF NY TIMES BLANK LETTERHEAD STATIONERY, WHICH MIGHT BE USED FOR SOME TYPE OF PROVOCATION, TAKEN FROM HIM FEBRUARY 12 WHEN SEARCHED AT THE AUSTRIAN BORDER.

4. FYI - WE HAVE LEARNED THAT KRATZER RETURNED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND WAS IN THIS COUNTRY WHEN THE RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE APPEARED. WHEN HE LEFT CZECHOSLOVAKIA AGAIN ON THE NIGHT OF FEB. 14, HE WAS SEARCHED AND TEMPORARILY DETAINED AT THE BORDER.
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PINS, CZ, (KRATZER, WALTER)
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